

REMARKS

Applicants have read and considered the Office Action dated September 24, 2003 and the references cited therein. Applicants would like to thank at the outset the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter of claims 2 to 4 and 10 to 15.

Claims 1, 5, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sigel, Jr. Claim 1 has been amended to introduce therein the subject matter of claim 2 which was indicated as having allowable subject matter.

Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

It is believed claims 4 and 5 are now acceptable since these claims depend on new claim 1.

Claim 10 has been rewritten in independent form, as have claims 11, 12, 13 and 15 and Applicants assert that these claims are allowable.

Claim 16 has been amended to change the expression "monomode" to --single mode—as has the corresponding portion of the description. This is to replace the term "monomode" with the more generally accepted term "single mode".

Regarding claim 16, Applicants traverse the Examiner's rejection in view of SIGEL, Jr. In fact, there is no mention in SIGEL that the porous fiber is single mode or multimode. Moreover, the fiber taught in SIGEL does not have a core. Thus, by definition, it is automatically a multimode fibre and cannot be single mode. Applicants assert that single mode waveguides provide advantages for some applications. Claim 16 is novel and provides advantages over the prior art. Consequently, it is believed that claim 16 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Claims 2-4 and 10-15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for indication allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 3, 10-10 and 15 have been rewritten in independent form, claim 2 has been cancelled and claims 4, 5 and 14 depend directly or indirectly from claim 3. Applicants assert that these claims are therefore in condition for allowance.

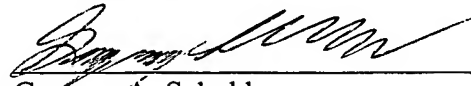
It is believed the present application is now in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is hereby solicited. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: December 23, 2003





Gregory A. Sebald
Reg. No. 33,280
GAS:PLSdb